

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

PRS-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /103 W

----- 051188

R 062211Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5446

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV PFOR EC

SUBJECT: GULF PAYMENTS TO OFFICIALS ABROAD

1. WIRE SERVICE STORIES BASED ON WALL STREET JOURNAL'S MAY 2 REVELATIONS OF GULF BRIBES HAVE DRAWN THE PROMPT ATTENTION OF THE PRESS, PUBLIC AND GOE. THE JOURNAL'S INFERENCE THAT BRIBES WERE MADE IN LATIN AMERICA, ITS MENTION THAT VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR ARE THE COUNTRIES WHERE GULF HAS PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND ITS STATEMENT THAT A PAYMENT WAS MADE IN 1971 OR 1972 TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO BEGIN OPERATING A FACILITY IN WHICH GULF HAD JUST INVESTED \$150 MILLION COULD POINT TO ECUADOR ALTHOUGH OTHER CLUES DO NOT. E.G., REFERENCES TO A POLITICAL PARTY WHOSE LEADER IS IN OFFICE, ELECTIONS IN 1966 AND 1970 AND AN INVESTMENT OF \$700 MILLION.

2. MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES ADMIRAL RENE SALAZAR DOWNPLAYED THE POSSIBILITY OF ECUADOREAN INVOLVEMENT, TELLING THE PRESS ON MAY 5, "YOU KNOW VERY WELL WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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WHAT CLEANLINESS AND HONOR WE DIRECT PETROLEUM ACTIVITY",

BUT PROMISING AN INVESTIGATION. THE PALACE REACTED MORE
FORCEFULLY. SECRETARY GENERAL OF ADMINISTRATION GENERAL
CARLOS AGUIRRE ANNOUNCED MAY 5 THAT PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ
ORDERED AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION ON MAY 3 AS SOON AS
THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVEMENT OF ECUADOREANS WAS "MEN-
TIONED OR SUGGESTED". THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTRY
OF NATURAL RESOURCES WERE ORDERED TO BEGING INVESTIGATIONS
LOCALLY. AMBASSADOR CARDENAS IN WASHINGTON WAS INSTRUCTED
TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.
AGUIRRE ADDED THAT THE PRESS WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE
RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION.
HEMENWAY

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Message Attributes

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